

HILLSIDE INFILTRATION: PRACTICAL SOLUTION OR SLIPPERY SLOPE?

**By Randal Dyer, PG and
Brian Hall, PE**



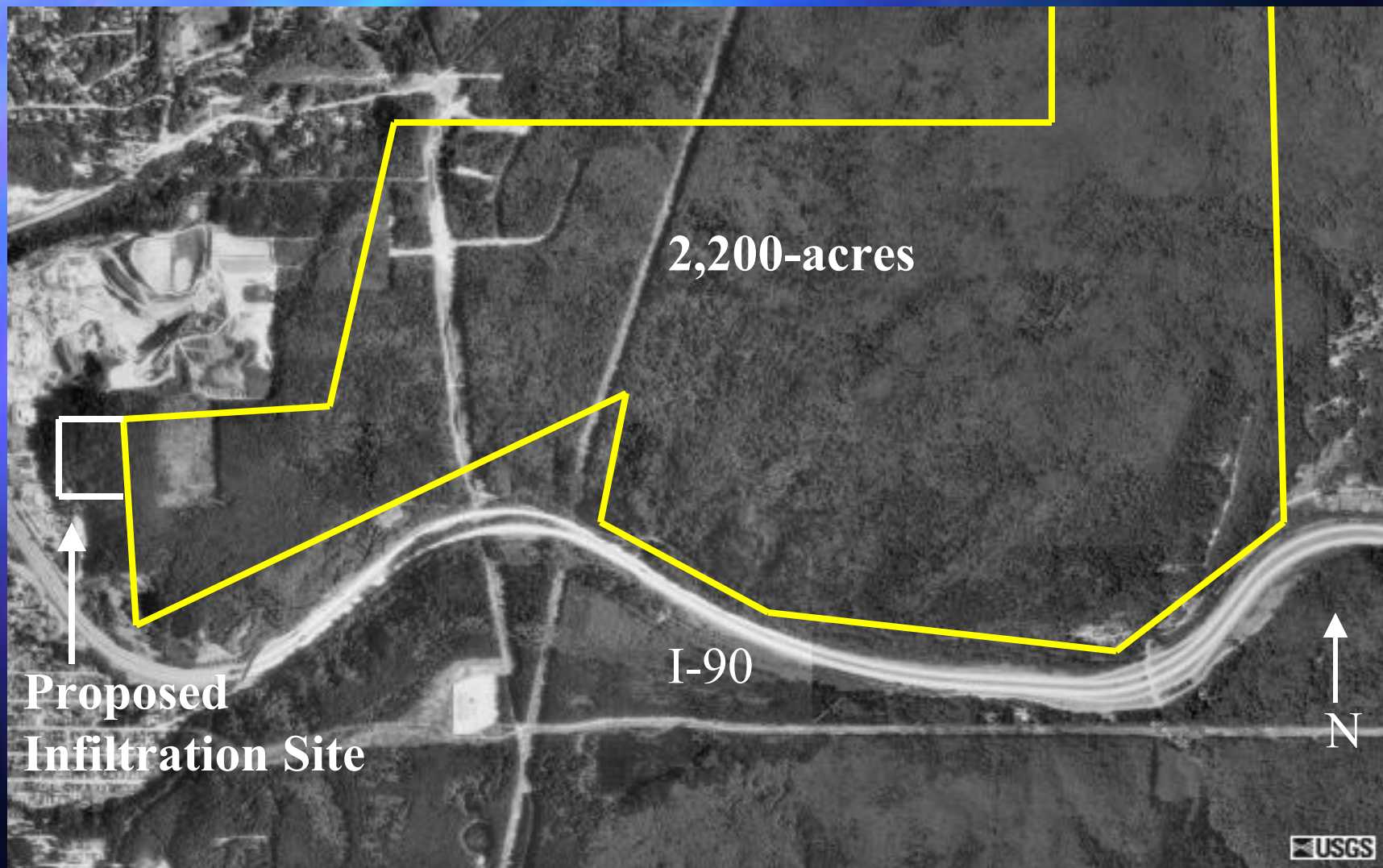
REID PROPERTY INFILTRATION EVALUATION CASE STUDY



SEATTLE AREA



ISSAQUAH HIGHLANDS DEVELOPMENT



INFILTRATION BENCH



HWA GEOSCIENCES INC.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- 5 Evaluate Whether Dormant Infiltration System Could Accept 6-CFS of Stormwater Without Impacting Slope Stability.
- 5 Evaluate if Ground Water Mounding Would Impact Facilities at the Toe of The Slope



SLOPES AND WATER

- 5 Arrival of Extra Water is the Most Common Event Triggering Slope Failure.**
- 5 So is Infiltrating water the Slippery Slope?**

LANDSLIDE MODES IN SEATTLE

5 High Bluff Peel off

5 Ground Water Blowout

5 Deep-Seated Landslides

5 Shallow Colluvial (Skin Slide)

P Most Failures are Shallow Colluvial

**P Most are Caused by Permeable layer
Over Impermeable Layer**

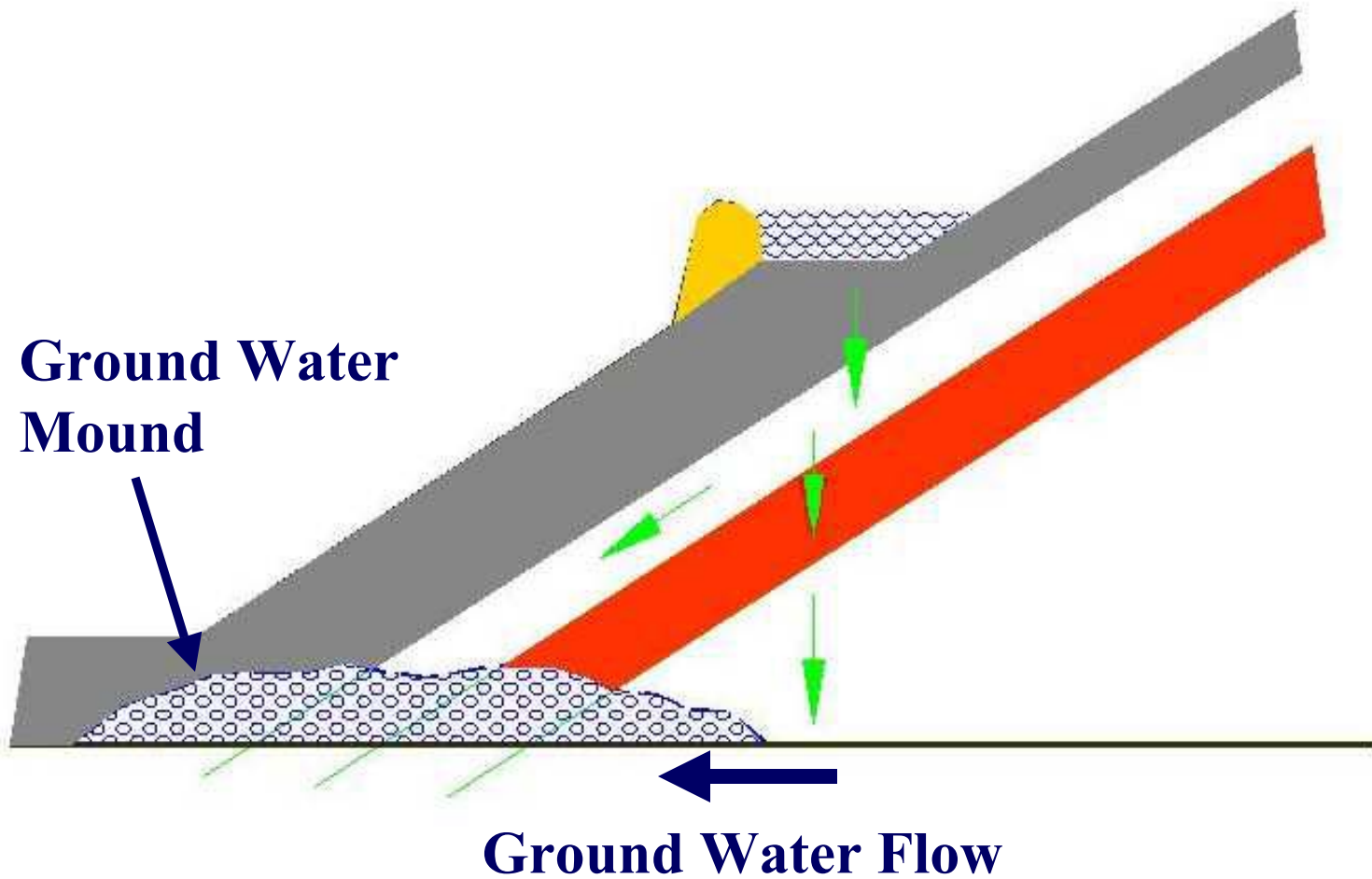


THE “RIGHT” CONDITIONS

- 5 Permeable Soils
- 5 Cohesionless Soil
- 5 Low Permeability Difference Between Layers
- 5 Expensive Land to Make Additional Work Justifiable



GROUND WATER MOUNDING

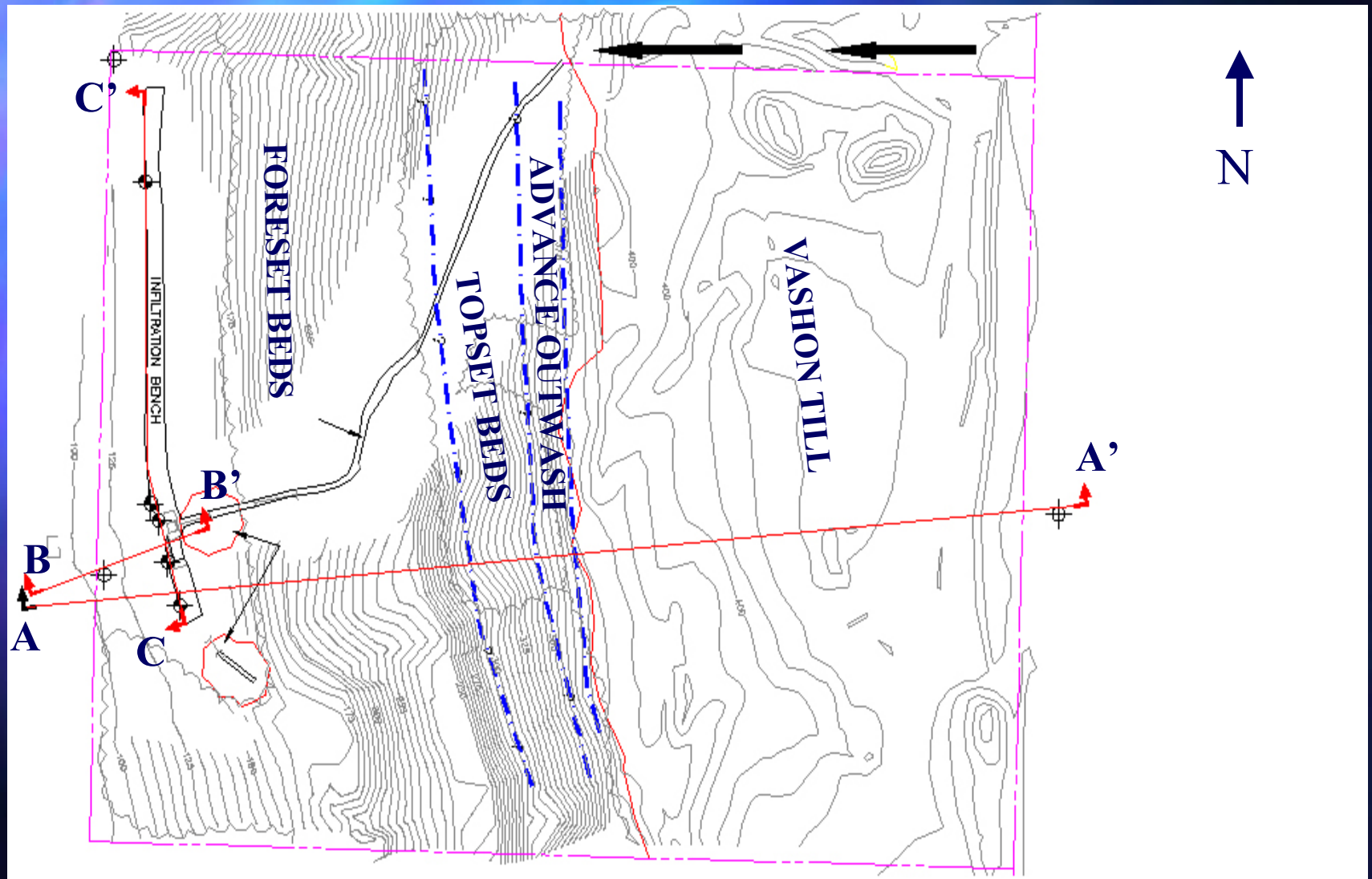


PHASED GO-NO GO APPROACH

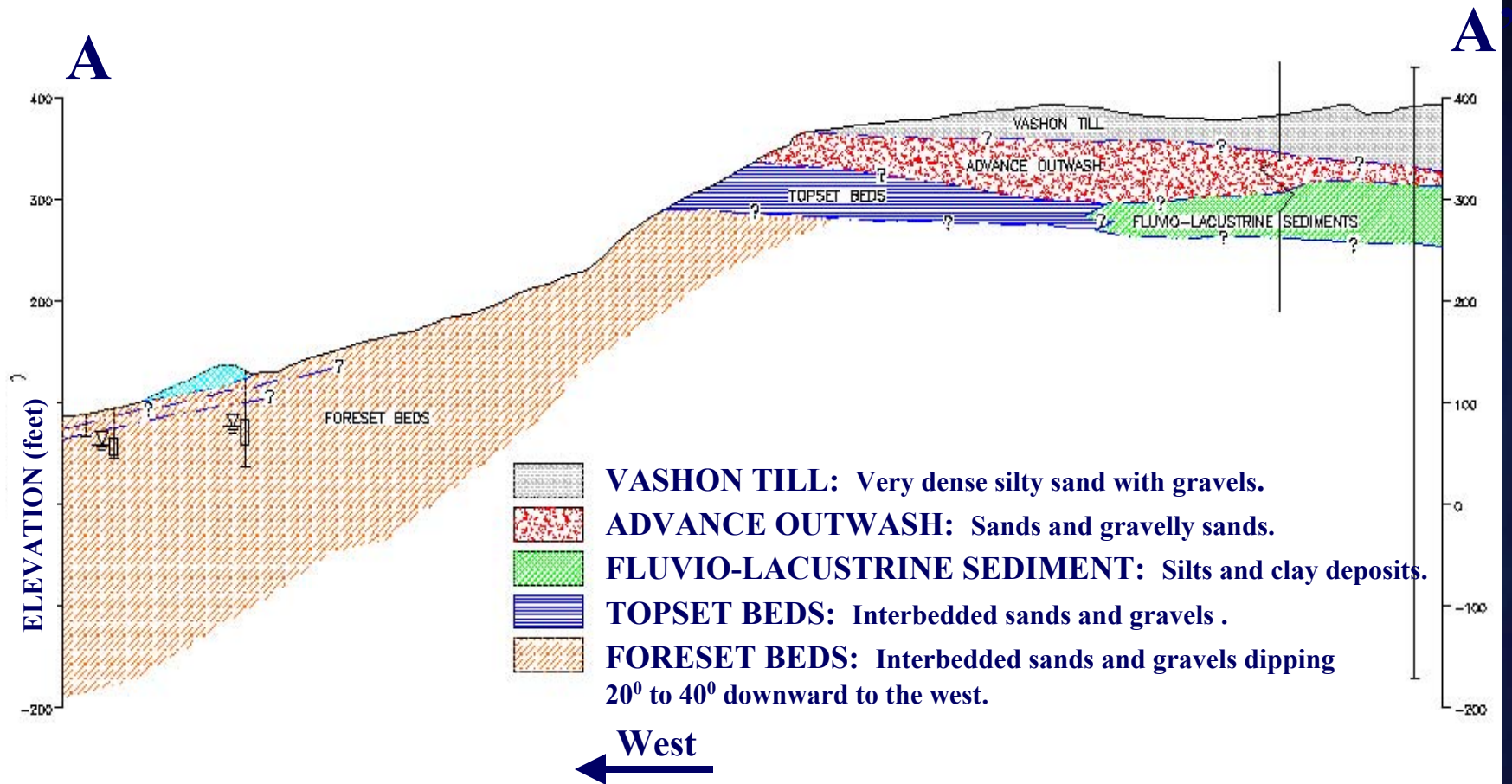
- 5 Review Available Geology and Hydrogeology Data.
- 5 Conduct Preliminary Field Evaluation.
 - 3 Detailed Field Mapping.
 - 3 Test Pits, Borings, Monitoring Wells.
 - 3 Grain Size Analyses.
- 5 Conduct Small-Scale Pilot Infiltration Tests (PIT).
 - 3 Monitor Field Parameters (ground water level, etc.)
- 5 Conduct Large Scale Infiltration Test.
- 5 Perform GW Mounding and Slope Stability Analysis.



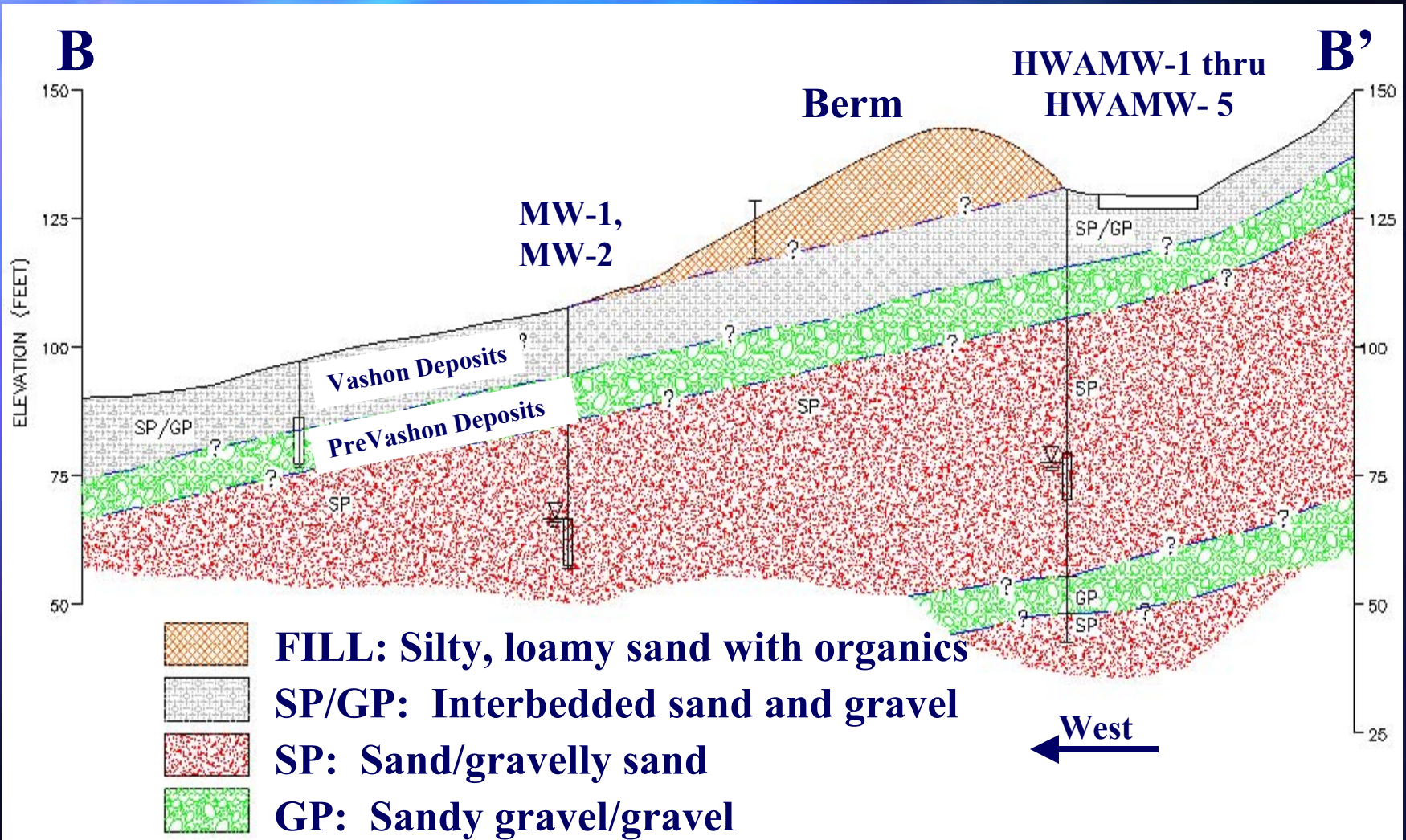
GEOLOGIC MAP



CROSS SECTION A - A'



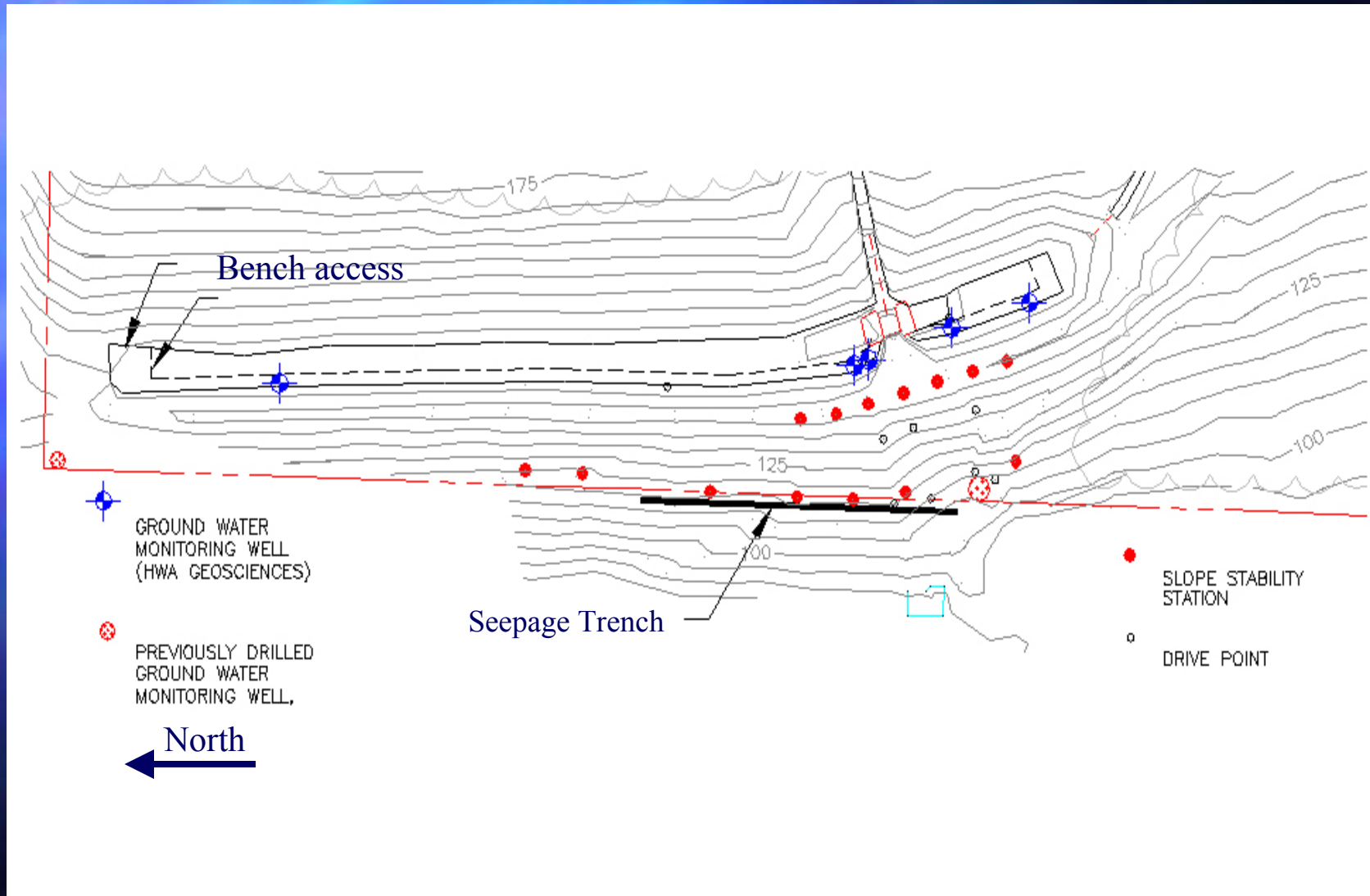
CROSS SECTION B - B'



CHALLENGES

- 5 Find a Sustainable Source of Water to Conduct the Large Scale Infiltration Test at 6-CFS (2,700 GPM).**
- 5 Monitor Infiltration Test to Prevent Hillslope Failure and damage to adjacent structures.**

INSTRUMENTATION



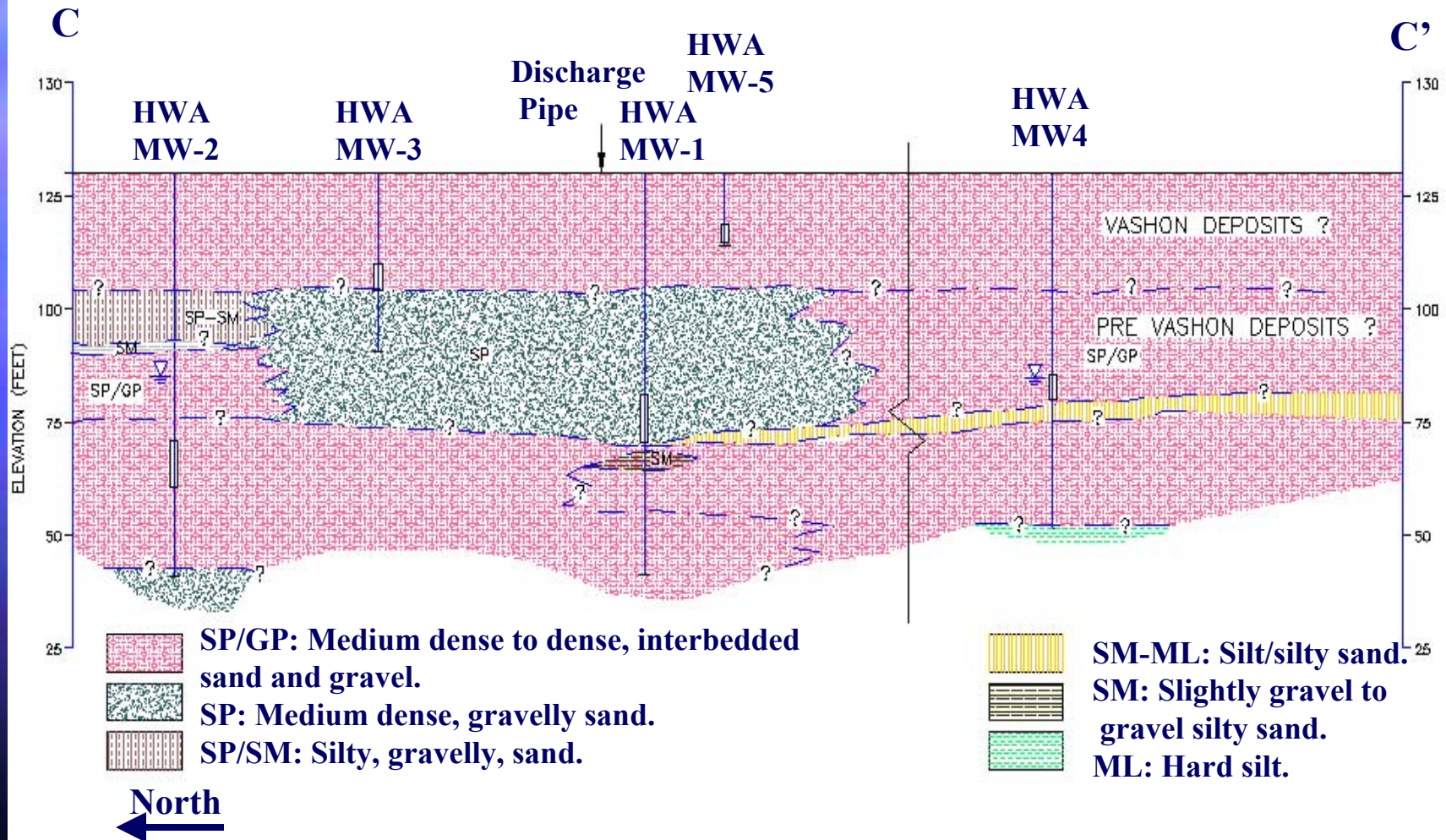
BASE OF BENCH SLOPE



INFILTRATION BENCH INTERBEDDING



CROSS SECTION C - C'



WATER DISCHARGE DISSIPATER



DISCHARGE FLOW DISSIPATER



HWA GEOSCIENCES INC.

DISCHARGE FLOW TO DISSIPATER



FULL-SCALE INFILTRATION TEST RESULTS

5 Infiltration Rate

5 GW Mounding

5 Slope Stability

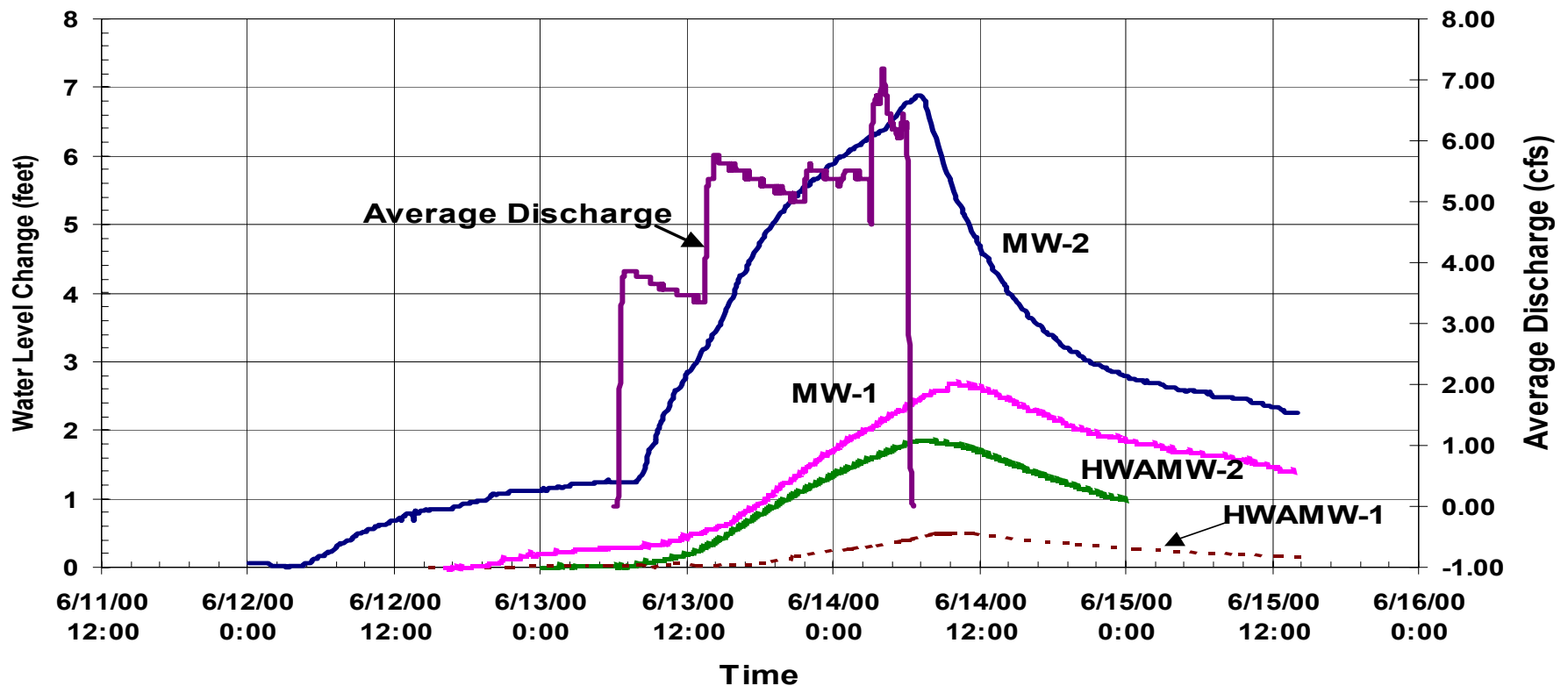


SUMMARY of DISCHARGE FLOW and INFILTRATION RATES

Time (hours)	Water Depth (feet)	Flow Rate (CFS)	Infiltration Rate (inches/hour
5.5	0.3 to 0.7	3.7	52
13.5	0.4 to 0.7	5.4	62
3	0.4 to 0.7	6.6	75

24-HOUR INFILTRATION TEST

GW Levels and Average Discharge



SLOPE STABILITY

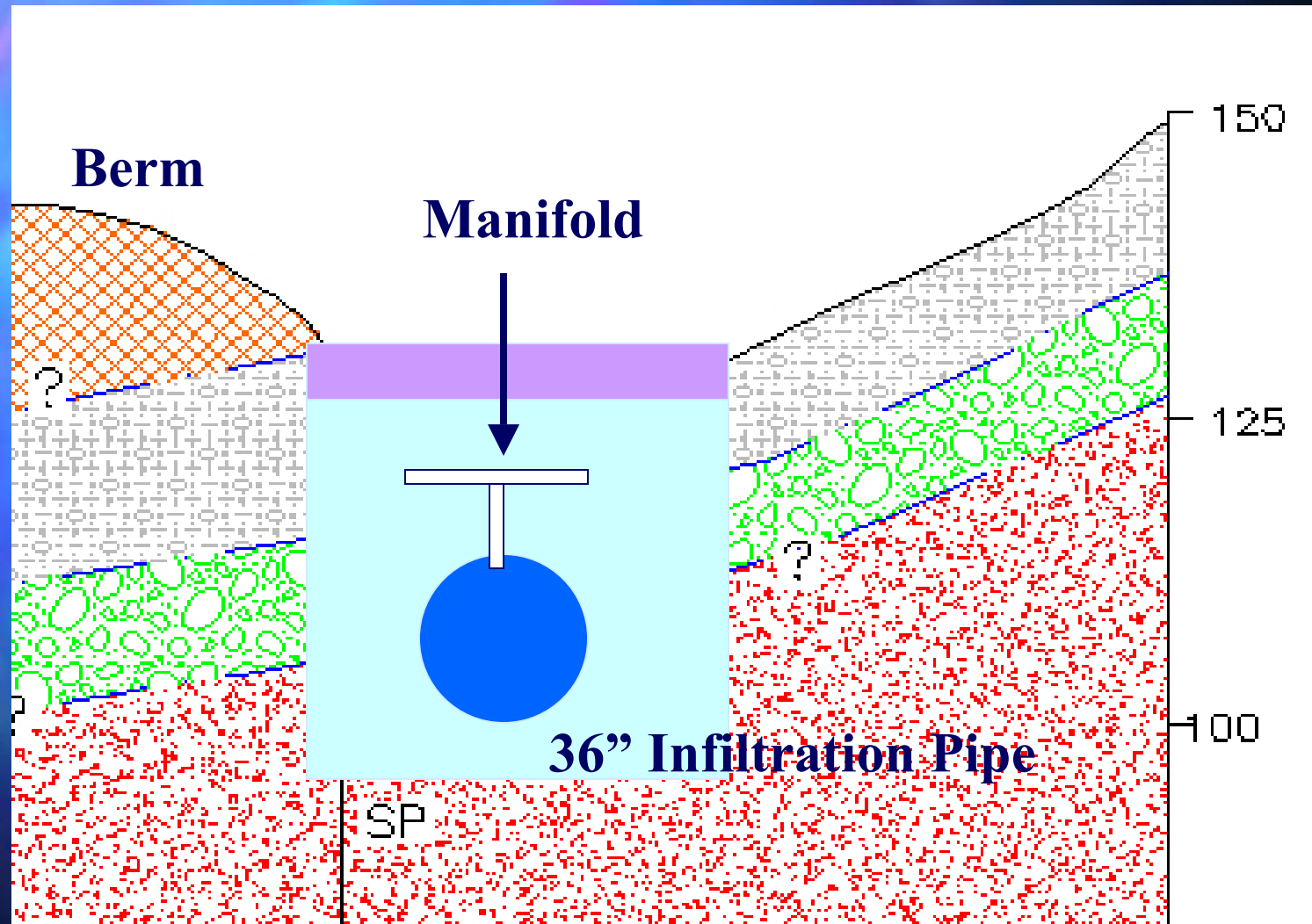
- 5 Analyses using the Piezometer Monitoring Data.
- 5 Minimum Factor of Safety was 1.8.

KEY RESULTS

- 5 Water Ponded in Infiltration trench to 0.7 feet.
- 5 Preferential Interbedded Flow.
- 5 No Seepage Breakout.
- 5 No Slope Movement.



INFILTRATION FACILITY



CONCLUSIONS

5 HILLSLOPE INFILTRATION NOT NECESSARILY SLIPPERY SLOPE

5 “Right” Hydrogeological Conditions

5 Detailed Phased Investigation

5 Full-scale Infiltration Testing

5 Proper Infiltration Facility Design



INFILTRATION TEST



HWA GEOSCIENCES INC.